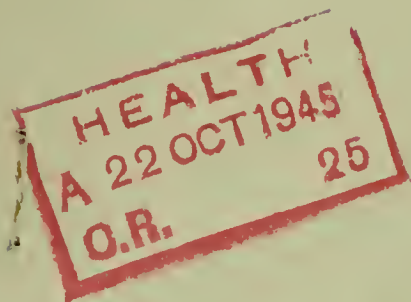


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ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INTERIM



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1944.

INTERIM

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 4 4.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff:

+ O.N. LITTLE. + J.M. DEKINS. (Resigned 9.12.44.)
+ P.M. RUDHALL. (Appointed 11.12.44.)
(+ Temporary Appointments.)

Telephone - Ross 214.

County Offices,
Alton Street,
Ross-on-Wye.

Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor and Housing
Designated Officer:

+ G.E. HARDY, L.R.I.B.A., A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(+ Holds Certificate for Meat and Food Inspector.)

Telephone - Ross 411.

Woodside,
Ross-on-Wye.

~~-XX-XX-XXXXX-XX-XX-~~

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1944 which is in accordance with the Ministry instructions. The year was the fifth of the war but nevertheless the health of the inhabitants of the District remained satisfactory.

The year was characterised by a prolonged drought which produced a deficiency of water throughout the District for a considerable part of the period. Towards the end of the summer, the Council received the Report of the Consulting Engineer upon a scheme for the adequate supply of water to all parts of the area. A small water scheme was aquired at Harwood End.

The Agricultural Housing Scheme was completed and the dwellings were occupied. This is the largest building programme which the Council has completed. In addition, steps were taken to get the preliminary work in connection with a post-war scheme prepared.

I take this opportunity to record my thanks to the Council for the support given me in the discharge of my duties during the year. My thanks are also due to my colleagues for assistance in the preparation of this report and throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HOGG.

Medical Officer of Health.

May 1945.

2. SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:-

The Ross and Whitchurch Rural District is almost entirely agricultural in character but during the summer a significant number of holiday visitors are accommodated chiefly at Whitchurch in the neighbourhood of Symond's Yat. Almost every aspect of agriculture is being carried on in the district at the present time and wartime need has brought about an increase in arable land.

General Statistics:

Registrar General's Estimated Resident Population	...	...	11,950
Area (in acres)	...	...	72,105
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1944)	...	...	3,347
Rateable Value	...	...	£42,577
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£187.0.0
Estimated Average Number of Persons per Inhabited House	...	...	3.6
Estimated Average Number of Persons per Acre	...	...	0.17
Average Number of Inhabited Houses per Acre	...	...	0.046

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year:

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	19.2
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)	...	29.7
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude)	...	13.8

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

		<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births.</u>
Heading No. 29	... Puerperal Sepsis	NIL.	NIL.
Heading No. 30	... Other Puerperal Causes	NIL.	NIL.

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	4.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	4.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	NIL

Births:

A total of 229 live births (119 Male & 110 Female) were registered during the year giving a birth rate of 19.2 per thousand of the estimated resident population. The number of births occurring out of wedlock was 13 which is 5.7% of the total live births.

Stillbirths:

There were 7 stillbirths registered which gives a rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births of 29.7.

Deaths:

The total number of deaths in the area during the year, after correction for the deaths of non-residents and of residents who died in other districts was 88 males 77 females. This represents a crude death rate from all causes (civilians only) of both sexes of 13.8

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA:

Public Health Laboratory:

The laboratory facilities remain unchanged and the Medical Research Council Public Health Laboratory at the County Offices, Hereford, under the direction of Dr. R. Ewart Jones continues to give most useful assistance to the Department and the medical practitioners of the District. The assistance given to the Department has not been limited to investigations in the laboratory for Dr. Jones has given much valuable help with investigations in the field.

The following table gives a summary of the work carried out by the laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

Water - Chemical Examination	...	2
Bacteriological "	...	37
Swabs	... ..	134
Sputum	... ..	11
Faeces	... ..	142

Public Mortuary:-

The Council has arrangements with the Ross-on-Wye Urban District Council for the reception of bodies at the Public Mortuary, Ross-on-Wye.

Water:-

The prevailing rock of the District is the Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System with an outcrop of Silurian Limestone along the south eastern boundary from Upton Bishop - Gorseley to Aston Ingham with an outcrop of carboniferous limestone along the southern boundary in Walford and Whitchurch.

The water supplies of the District vary greatly in character. They embrace piped supplies from the Statutory Water Undertakers, piped supplies provided by the Local Authority, piped schemes under private ownership, public wells and springs, rain water and river water supplies. Broadly speaking, the water supplies are derived from the shallow underground water.

In spite of the variety of supplies in operation, all parts of the District are not adequately supplied with water, and the number of separate supplies makes it difficult for the Department to exercise more than a scanty supervision over the quality of the waters serving the population. The essential of control, is of course, frequent sampling and examination. In fact, the most urgent matters are dealt with as they arise.

The mains of the Ross Water Undertaking supply almost the whole of the Parish of Ross Rural and parts of the Parishes of Bridstow, Walford and Weston. The water supplied was adequate in quantity throughout the year and is of good potable quality. The supply is constant and at adequate pressure, supplies to the dwellings being by means of separate services. The standpipe in the Greytree District was removed by the Water Undertaking as it had become redundant. The following table shows the number of dwellings in each Parish connected to the mains:-

Bridstow	108	Dwellings.
Ross Rural	92	"
Weston-under-Penyard	5	"
Walford	30	"

235

The water in the mains of the Undertaking is treated by continuous automatic chlorination at the Alton Court Waterworks and has no tendency to react with metals. It is somewhat hard. The quality is checked by means of samples taken in the Urban District.

The Local Authority provides piped water supplies in the parishes of Brampton Abbots, Llangarron and Garway. The water for the Brampton Abbots Scheme is purchased in bulk from the Ross Water Undertaking, whilst for Llangarron and Garway use is made of local springs. In each case the supply is of the constant type being supplied to dwellings partly by piped services and partly by standpipes, the supplies being limited in each instance to part of the Parish.

Brampton Abbots Supply:-

Brampton Abbots is supplied from water purchased in bulk from the Ross Water Undertaking. A small reservoir and pumping station with automatic electric pumps is provided by the Council. The scheme supplies 25 dwellings, of which, 8 make use of standpipes whilst the remainder are supplied from separate services. The water is of excellent potable quality and was adequate in quantity during the year.

Garway Supply:

This scheme is derived from a land spring and feeds the Parish by gravitation. During the year, the yield of the spring showed considerable fall and in August only 6,944 gallons per day were recorded - but this was adequate for the demand. The maximum

recorded yield of this spring is 172,000 gallons per day which occurred in February 1939, the average daily yield over a number of years is approximately 40,000 gallons per day. There are now no stand pipes used on this scheme. This scheme supplies 42 dwellings in the parish.

Llangarron Supply:

The Llangarron scheme makes use of spring water which is pumped to reservoirs situated at approximate levels. The water is of good potable quality and is examined periodically. Whilst the yield of the spring fell to a minimum of 28,152 gallons per day during this year of drought the scheme was able to meet the demand in full. There are 134 dwellings supplied by this scheme largely by individual services but approximately 20 dwellings are served by 7 stand pipes.

Llancloudy Supply:

This is a separate scheme which supplies the Llancloudy district of Llangarron. The water of a spring is collected and by means of a short length of main serves dwellings at a lower level. There are no stand pipes used on this scheme.

It has been found that the quality of the water as shown by bacteriological examination is apt to vary and as an additional safeguard a chlorinator has been installed.

During the year, there was considerable shortage experienced. The rainfall during the year was below the average and caused a fall in the yield of the spring, this failed entirely in June. The position was aggravated by a spring breaking out at a new point outside of the existing collecting area. This unexpected situation was in the end alleviated by temporary measures to limit the demand and to increase the collection.

There are 19 dwellings supplied by this scheme by means of services.

Harewood End Supply:

This small scheme was purchased by the Council during the year. Water is pumped from a shallow well by power supplied by an overshot water wheel with an internal combustion engine as an auxiliary power unit. The scheme supplies 19 dwellings by piped services.

If all the schemes of the Local Authority are considered together it will be seen that 189 dwellings within the area are supplied from the Authorities mains by services and a further 20 from stand pipes on the main.

In addition to these supplies, there are in the District a number of small piped schemes in the ownership of private individuals which supply a number of dwellings. These private mains afford supplies in the parishes of Bridstow, Brockhampton, Foy, Ganarow, Goodrich, Hentland, Hope Mansell, How Caple, Kings Caple, Lea, Marstow, Pencoyd, Weston, Harewood, Upton Bishop, Whitchurch, Walford, St. Weonards and Welsh Newton.

These utilise water from a variety of sources and are of various degrees of mechanical soundness. The Department cannot exercise more than a slight supervision over these supplies. The number of dwellings supplied by the largest of these schemes is about 30, whilst the smallest number is 2. In no instance do any of these schemes supply a whole parish, but in some parishes more than one scheme is in operation and some systems supply parts of more than one parish. The total number of dwellings obtaining supplies from these private piped supplies in the whole district is about 350.

The remainder of the dwellings in the District is supplied from public or private wells, these usually make use of water from shallow strata and are prone to be of little value during a dry summer. The year under review can be regarded as one of relatively low rainfall and many dwellings experienced shortage during the summer period. In many

(e) Housing Acts:-

Houses Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

School Closures:-

There were no school closures owing to illness during the year.

SECTION D. HOUSING:-

During the year the 10 new dwellings erected under the Emergency Rural Housing Scheme were completed and all were occupied on 30th. October. There were many difficulties to be overcome in connection with this building scheme owing to the shortage of labour and material. The cost as was to be expected was somewhat high compared with pre-war costs.

Nevertheless, these cottages are outstanding and are examples of rural cottages built in accordance with modern ideas. It is to be noted that the tenants have expressed great satisfaction with the amenities which they enjoy. These amenities are of great importance for in addition to rendering the task of the housewife less difficult they tend to promote cleanliness and good health.

These cottages are built upon carefully chosen sites of easy access. They are provided with a piped water supply at constant pressure and each has a water closet, bathroom, and a proper drainage system. In two dwellings, electric lighting is provided and four others await connection to the Supply Company's mains. There is an adequate number of rooms properly arranged for comfortable habitation. All the dwellings have ample built-in cupboard and dresser accommodation.

Some members of the Council may ask why it is necessary to build dwellings in a rural district. First, it must be remembered that population begets population and as a result additional dwellings are needed for new families. Owing to the war, new house construction has not taken place during recent years. Whilst the birth-rate has been falling until 1942 and the average number of children per family has decreased, the population of the country as a whole has not yet begun to decline and whilst families are smaller the number is greater. This produces a demand for more but smaller dwellings than was necessary at the beginning of the century.

In addition many families are still living in houses which are unfit for habitation and in old houses which lack amenities of modern life and are worn out and obsolete. Eighty years is a reasonable expectation of life of any cottage. Such unfit and obsolete dwellings need replacement.

Finally, it must be remembered that the existing overcrowding standards are low and ultimately will have to be revised.

In view of the housing position, the Council have agreed upon the erection of a further 28 houses for the first year's housing programme. Mr. G. Hardy the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor has been requested to find suitable sites for this purpose and to prepare the necessary plans.

It is estimated that a larger number of houses will figure in the second year's programme and will be erected in place of those classified for demolition. It appears that approximately 10% of the cottage property in the District will require attention.

Demolition.

Total number of Houses Inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	39
Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	43
Number of Dwellings found not to be fit in all respects for human habitation	...	...	...	...	NIL

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:-

The supervision of milk supplies forms by far the greatest part of this work. The production of clean milk is by no means a simple problem and it is connected with health as well as having significant commercial aspects. It cannot be claimed that this problem is entirely solved for complaints of milk rapidly souring in summer are not unknown. One of the essentials for the production of clean milk is certainly an adequate supply of pure and wholesome water. Unfortunately it is not the whole solution.

Milk Supply:-

There were 294 persons registered with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926, at the end of the year.

All premises are regularly inspected, 194 such inspections having been made during the year.

SECTION F. INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES:-

The incidence of infectious disease was less than during the year 1943. The most prevalent disease being measles which increased during the last quarter. At the commencement of the year, there were a few cases of whooping cough, and scarlet fever declined in incidence with a total of 8 cases for the year, divided into the last quarters. Diphtheria showed an increase as there were 9 confirmed cases against 6 in the previous year, with one fatal case in a male child of seven years who had not previously been immunised. Three of the diphtheria patients were adults, the remainder were children under 15 years of age, 5 of which had never received any prophylactic injections.

Whilst 5 cases of dysentery (Sonne' Type) were notified I am satisfied that this represents to a very small extent the true incidence of this disease in the District. It is a mild disorder and many cases are undoubtedly never seen by a doctor and are missed.

One case of acute Anterior Poliomyelitis occurred and one confirmed case of typhoid fever was notified. In both of these patients efforts to ascertain the source of infection failed but it seemed certain that infection had occurred in this District.

The distribution of infections according to the quarter is shown in the table below:-

Disease.	1st.Qtr.	2nd.Qtr.	3rd.Qtr.	4th.Qtr.	Total
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-	-	2
Typhoid Fever	1	-	-	-	1
Measles	-	1	3	32	36
Whooping Cough	3	8	1	-	12
Pneumonia	-	1	1	1	3
Scarlet Fever	4	1	-	3	8
Diphtheria	3	-	1	5	9
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery (Sonne')	1	-	-	4	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	1	-	-	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	13	13	6	46	78

There were nine cases admitted to the Stretton Sugwas Isolation Hospital, three of these were suffering from scarlet fever and six from diphtheria.

Disease	Under 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Totals.
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Sonne' Dysentery	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	5
Measles	-	-	3	-	3	19	9	1	1	-	-	-	36
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	8
Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	1	3	5	1	-	-	-	1	-	12
Diphtheria	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	3	-	-	-	9
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	1	4	4	3	6	28	14	2	9	4	3	-	78

The efficiency of notification by the medical practitioners of the District is prompt and thorough.

Scabies:-

The number of cases of scabies which were brought to the notice of the Department during the year was 16. This represents an increase upon the figure for the previous year and as the notification of this disease is not compulsory this figure does not represent the full incidence of this disease. Scabies is a difficult disease to deal with in a Rural District as the Council has no clinics in which treatment can be carried out under the supervision of skilled staff and all treatment must be carried out in the home with very few exceptions. Many of the dwellings have no bath and water supplies are often a handicap.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

Progress with this scheme continued to be steady. The scheme is operated in part by the Department and in part by the practitioners practising in the District. All immunisation being free to persons under 16 years of age, the practitioners being remunerated by the Council on agreed terms. The scheme works smoothly and the practitioners of the District have co-operated extremely well.

The prophylactics used are Alum Precipitated Toxoid (A.P.T.) and Toxoid Antitoxin Floccules (T.A.F.). The following table summarises the work carried out during the year:-

Age Group	1 - 5 Years.	5 - 15 Years.	1 - 15 Years.
1st. Quarter	70	80	150
2nd. Quarter	36	25	61
3rd. Quarter	29	5	34
4th. Quarter	44	11	55
Whole Year	179	121	300

The percentage of the child population under five years of age regarded as being immunised at the end of the year was 36% and for the 5 - 15 years group this figure was 66%. These figures are probably too low as they are calculated upon the actual age groups of the population and this embraces a number of private residential schools which run Diphtheria Immunisation Schemes distinct from the Council's Scheme, with the result that the Department does not obtain returns of the number of children thus immunised.

There is neither the staff nor the time available to carry out any post Schick Tests, in fact to obtain the present figures assistance by the staff of the County Public Health Department has been necessary and much is carried out by the medical practitioners under the Council's Scheme.

Continuous propaganda preferably on a co-ordinated national and local basis appears to be necessary to maintain public interest in this most important preventive measure.

Tuberculosis:-

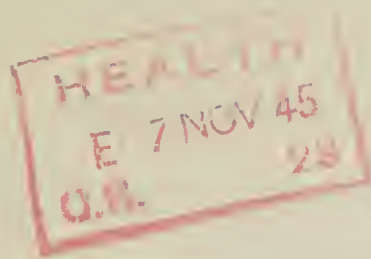
At the beginning of the year there were 47 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 32 pulmonary and 15 non-pulmonary cases. During the year 21 cases were added 18 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary. Fourteen cases were removed from the register during the year 9 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary. At the end of the year therefore, 54 cases remained on the register 41 pulmonary and 13 non-pulmonary cases.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15+	2	5	1	-	-	2	-	-
25+	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
35+	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
45+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55+	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	11	7	3	-	1	3	-	1

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 Resident Population.
Diphtheria	1	0.08
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	6	0.50
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	0.08
Influenza	7	0.59
Cancer (all forms)	17	1.42
Diabetes	1	0.08
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	15	1.26
Heart Disease	54	4.52
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	0.50
Bronchitis	7	0.59
Pneumonia	5	0.42
Other Respiratory Diseases	4	0.33
Appendicitis	1	0.08
Other Digestive Diseases	2	0.67
Nephritis	11	0.92
Congenital Malformations Etc.	1	0.08
Violence	7	0.59
All Other Causes	19	1.59
Total	165	13.08



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ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ADDENDUM

TO THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1944

Original on
23/10 000

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Southern Area Medical Office,
County Council Offices,
Alton Street,
Barnsley.

8th November, 1946.

Dear Sir,

Don and Saltmarsh Rural
District. Attention to Annual Report
of the Medical Officer of Health.

My attention has been drawn to a
typing error, page 2 first line which reads
"Action for Kentland Parish", should read
"Action for Kentland Parish".

I regret any inconvenience which may
have been caused.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) William Hogg

Medical Officer of Health

The Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
Whitehall,
LONDON, S.W.1.

ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ADDENDUM TO THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Having now had opportunity to read the Annual Report, the Public Health Committee has drawn my attention to a number of ambiguous statements and deficiencies regarding the subject matter of the Report.

Therefore, I submit the following addendum to the Annual Report for the Year 1944.

Page 3, Paragraph 5:-

I have consulted the Manager of the Ross Water Undertaking who assures me that no complaints of defective pressure were received during the year, and whilst the pressure of water in some parts of the area can hardly be regarded as high, the Undertaking has no cause to suppose that the pressure is inadequate at any point.

Page 3, Paragraph 9:-

Garway Supply.

There are still three stand pipes in use on this scheme although these are used by a small number of persons.

Page 4, Paragraph 2:-

The Llancloudy Supply.

In my Report, I have stated that the spring water is conducted to the dwellings by a short length of main, as this main in actual fact has a length of 1.9 miles, I should of course, have said a long length of main.

Page 4 Paragraph 4:-

With regard to the reasons which I give for the shortage of water experienced at the Llancloudy Supply, no mention is made of the most important factor which was the increased demand occasioned by the Prisoner of War Camp. I apologise for this omission but point out in mitigation that this paragraph was written when the Censorship Regulations were in operation. As these are now revoked there is no reason why this fact should not be recorded in the Report.

Page 4, Paragraph 6:-

Harewood End Supply.

This scheme was purchased by the Council and put into sound

condition and is of course now the Local Authorities Scheme for Hentland Parish. This is perhaps not made quite clear by the wording of the Report as this statement should have been made upon Page 3 Paragraph 7.

Page 6, Paragraph 7:-

In this paragraph, I have stated that "eighty years is the reasonable expectation of life of any cottage". My attention has been drawn to the fact that many cottages in the District still inhabited were built over 200 years ago and that others are over 100 years old.

I agree that this is correct, but in my opinion this is just the very reason why rural housing, speaking in a general sense, is so defective and falls so very much below modern standards.

Of course there are exceptions, but dwellings being built for the protection of man from the effects of climate may be compared with clothes, and just as our garments wear out or have to be renewed because of alterations in the size and mode of living of the person inside of them, so dwellings wear out or need renewal because of alterations in size or mode of living of the family.

Many of these old cottages have serious defects of structure such as absence of damp proof course, and inadequacy of lighting and ventilation. Many are placed in bad sites and lack modern amenities. The present day rural worker is sufficiently cleanly to be anxious to have a bath at the end of the day's trial. Finally the mode of living in a house has undergone remarkable changes within the recent years.

This could be the opinion of an eccentric, but in paragraph 193 page 48 of "Rural Housing", the Third Report of the Rural Housing Subcommittee of the Central Housing Advisory Council states, "We agree that a well built house should have a longer life than sixty years, but at that age the cost of repairs will be increasing, extensive modernisation may be required and in some instances the house may already have become obsolescent".

Page 7:-

My attention has been drawn to the fact that although there are 294 registrations under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926, only 194 inspections were made. I agree that this is not satisfactory as two or three visits each year is desired. This has not been possible during the year owing to pressure of work and shortage of staff.

I have the honour to be Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

